

EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE VETERANS CEMETERY:

Honoring Veterans in Their Final Resting Place

BACKGROUND

Washington State's veterans community has advocated for the establishment of a Veterans Cemetery in Eastern Washington for the past decade.

Initially, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) explored the possibility of requesting a National Cemetery in Eastern Washington, similar to the Tahoma National Cemetery in Western Washington. Because the veteran population was not high enough to meet the federal requirements, WDVA began working toward establishing a State Veterans Cemetery.

A State Veterans Cemetery will fill a significant gap in services for nearly 140,000 veterans living in Eastern Washington, and their families.

It will provide a valuable service already available to veterans residing in Western Washington thereby eliminating a long-standing inequity.

FUNDING

The Federal VA Cemetery Construction Grant Program provides grants to states to build veterans cemeteries within 100 miles of major metropolitan areas.

Federal grants will pay 100 % of design, construction and equipment costs.

Washington State will provide the land and is responsible for operation and maintenance.

SITE SELECTION

Sites were selected based on a feasibility study which looked at a number of factors to determine the best location for the first State Veterans Cemetery. One of these factors was veteran population.

2007 Budget Proposal

- \$206,000 in 'Other Funds' and 1 FTE included in Governor's 2007 Operating Budget
- \$7.8 million included in Governor's 2007 Capital Budget
 - \$926,000 in CEP&RI
 - \$6.899 million in State Building Construction – Federal

(Except for \$450,000 to purchase land, all Capital Funds will be reimbursed by Federal VA)

Two sites are being considered:

- North of West Medical Lake off West Espanola Road; and
- Salnave Road off Interstate 90 near Medical Lake.

YOU CAN HELP!

Proceeds from the Armed Forces License Plates will help pay for ongoing maintenance of the Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery.

Buy yours today at any local licensing agent!

STAY INFORMED:

Sign up for the WDVA ListServ to receive information on the Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery and other important projects!

- Visit: www.dva.wa.gov and click on 'Join the ListServ'
- Or call toll-free (in WA State only): 1-800-562-0132 or (360) 725-2154.